

4 2(2) QUEENBOROUGH
SHEERNESS & SHEPPEY TD

JOINT DISTRICTS

of the

BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH

the

URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS

and the

RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the year

1955



J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

JOINT DISTRICTS
of the
BOROUGH OF QUEENBOROUGH
the
URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEERNESS
and the
RURAL DISTRICT OF SHEPPEY

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year

1955

J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Retired 31st January, 1955)

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I S L E O F S H E P P E Y

(Medical Officer of Health)

JOINT COMMITTEE

1955

Chairman:

H. C. Love

Members:

Queenborough Town Council:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.
Miss D. L. Wood

Sheerness Urban District Council:

A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. H. Copland
E. F. Knight
R. W. Stone
Mrs. E. Tiltman

Sheppey Rural District Council:

H. C. Love
Lt.Col. G.A. Keir

Clerk to the Committee:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Medical Officer of Health:

J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.
(From 1st February, 1955)Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Retired 31st January, 1955)

Public Health Department Staff:

Mr. F. J. Pankhurst, Chief Clerk
Miss M. Leader

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Sheppey
Joint (Medical Officer of Health) Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith reports on the health of the three constituent authorities of the Isle of Sheppey for the year 1955.

According to the estimate of the Registrar-General, the population of the whole Island was 28,250, 90 less than the year before.

Details of Vital Statistics for the three districts and the Island as a whole may be found in Tables I and II but I will mention -

(a) that the Birth Rate for the whole Island was 15.4 or 0.9 lower than in 1954,

(b) the Death Rate was only 10.6 or 0.7 lower than the previous year, and

(c) Infant Mortality was the lowest ever recorded, namely, only 8 deaths giving a rate of 18.3 per 1,000 live births. England & Wales established a new low record with an Infant Mortality Rate of 24.9.

Tables IV and V give details of Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis. The most striking features of 1955 are the very small Whooping Cough figure, the complete absence of Dysentery and Food Poisoning, the record number of Measles and 12 cases of Poliomyelitis.

The Diphtheria column still shows a complete row of blanks, somewhat taken for granted these days although this state of affairs could be easily reversed if mothers did not have their babies immunised by their first birthday. If parents cooperate as wholeheartedly in the vaccination campaign against Poliomyelitis launched during the current year, it may well be that in a few years time the incidence of Poliomyelitis will be as small as Diphtheria is at present.

I should like to mention the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which were made jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under Sections 13 and 123 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and came into force on 1st January 1956. Broadly speaking the Regulations replace the requirements of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and parts of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, but in addition they make provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles, etc. where food is handled.

The aim of the Regulations is to safeguard the public against the risks of Food Poisoning and this can be achieved by the observance of the Regulations and of commonsense hygienic rules by all food handlers.

I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspectors for their help in the preparation of this Report and the Chief Clerk, Mr. Pankhurst who helps considerably in the smooth and efficient running of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Table I shows the birth and mortality rates for 10 year periods since 1901 and the period 1951-1955 and Table II shows the chief Vital Statistics for the Island for the past five years

TABLE I

	Period	Birth Rate	Illegitimate % of live Births	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live birth
Queenborough M.B.	1901-1910	31.8	NK	12.5	79.6
	1911-1920	26.6	2.7	9.8	86.8
	1921-1930	18.0	2.6	8.5	78.7
	1931-1940	17.3	4.2	9.6	48.7
	1941-1950	22.3	5.3	10.5	37.8
	1951-1955	17.0	4.8	9.0	18.4
Sheerness U.D.	1901-1910	23.0	NK	10.7	115.5
	1911-1920	24.5	2.1	13.3	90.2
	1921-1930	18.4	2.5	11.1	60.2
	1931-1940	13.8	4.1	11.7	49.9
	1941-1950	20.0	6.7	13.0	32.2
	1951-1955	16.3	6.4	10.8	31.9
Sheppey R.D.	1925-1930	15.6	3.7	9.1	46.8
	1931-1940	15.7	3.4	10.3	32.0
	1941-1950	22.2	6.7	11.0	34.8
	1951-1955	14.3	5.8	10.9	25.7
Isle of Sheppey	1901-1910	23.8	NK	10.9	111.2
	1911-1920	24.8	2.2	12.7	89.6
	1921-1930	17.9	2.7	10.4	61.0
	1931-1940	14.7	3.9	11.1	44.5
	1941-1950	21.2	6.5	12.0	33.7
	1951-1955	15.8	6.0	10.7	28.5

TABLE II

	Year	Estimated Population	Live Births			Deaths		Infant Deaths under 1 year		
			Total	Rate per cent Illegitimate and	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	Total	Illegitimate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births
Queenborough M.B.	1951	3,111	51	2 or 3.9%	16.4	23	7.4	0	0	0.0
	1952	3,157	51	1 or 2.0%	16.2	34	10.8	0	0	39.2
	1953	3,215	55	3 or 5.5%	17.1	31	9.6	0	0	18.2
	1954	3,230	55	3 or 5.5%	17.0	29	9.0	0	0	36.4
	1955	3,220	59	4 or 6.8%	18.3	26	8.1	0	0	0.0
Sheerness U.D.	1951	17,590	261	20 or 7.6%	14.8	198	11.2	13	0	49.8
	1952	16,910	277	15 or 5.4%	16.4	148	8.8	5	0	18.1
	1953	16,270	282	19 or 6.7%	17.3	188	11.5	12	1	42.5
	1954	15,810	275	17 or 6.2%	17.4	186	11.7	9	1	32.7
	1955	15,650	251	16 or 6.3%	16.0	173	11.0	4	0	15.9
Sheppey R.D.	1951	9,104	150	5 or 3.3%	16.4	105	11.5	3	0	20.0
	1952	9,144	130	8 or 6.2%	14.2	102	11.2	5	0	38.5
	1953	9,201	122	11 or 9.0%	13.3	91	9.9	3	1	24.6
	1954	9,300	133	10 or 7.5%	14.3	106	11.4	2	2	15.0
	1955	9,380	126	4 or 3.2%	13.4	102	10.9	4	1	31.7
Isle of Sheppey	1951	29,805	462	27 or 5.8%	15.5	326	10.9	16	0	34.6
	1952	29,211	458	24 or 5.2%	15.7	284	9.7	12	0	26.2
	1953	28,686	459	33 or 7.1%	16.0	310	10.8	16	2	34.8
	1954	28,340	463	30 or 6.5%	16.3	321	11.3	13	3	28.1
	1955	28,250	436	24 or 5.5%	15.4	301	10.6	8	1	18.3

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The following table shows the deaths from the above during the past six years with age and sex distribution.

TABLE III

Year	30-40 M F	40-50 M F	50-60 M F	60-70 M F	70-80 M F	80-90 M F	Totals M F
1950	- -	2 -	3 -	3 -	1 1	1 -	10 1
1951	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	3 -
1952	1 -	2 -	3 -	2 -	2 1	- -	10 1
1953	- -	1 1	5 -	4 1	2 -	1 -	13 2
1954	- -	1 -	1 -	8 2	2 -	- -	12 2
1955	- -	1 -	4 -	8 1	7 -	- -	20 1
Totals	1 -	7 1	17 -	26 4	15 2	2 -	68 7

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the incidence of infectious disease on the Island during the past 5 years.

TABLE IV

	Year	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Para.	Ac. Poliomyelitis Non-Para.	Ac. Encephalitis	Dysentery	Malaria	Meningococcal Infection	Food Poisoning	Typhoid
Penborough M.B.	1951	-	9	-	70	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1952	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	1	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1955	1	1	-	106	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Werness U.D.	1951	11	69	-	398	9	3	-	-	-	9	1	1	-	-
	1952	14	4	-	7	3	6	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
	1953	7	32	-	34	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	6	107	-	3	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1955	20	2	-	759	10	-	3	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
Sheppey R.D.	1951	12	71	-	245	18	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
	1952	7	33	-	33	21	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	9	29	-	115	9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1954	5	115	-	6	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-
	1955	2	5	-	460	7	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Island of Sheppey	1951	23	149	-	713	28	6	1	-	1	9	1	2	2	-
	1952	21	37	-	123	24	10	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1953	16	62	-	159	14	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1954	12	273	-	11	14	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	1955	23	9	-	1325	18	1	7	5	-	-	-	2	14	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Table V shows the case rates and death rates of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population for 5-year periods since 1926.

TABLE V

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Case Rate	Death Rate	Case Rate	Death Rate
Queenborough M.B.				
1926-1930	1.40	0.89	0.25	0.00
1931-1935	1.13	0.66	0.06	0.00
1936-1940	0.61	0.41	0.06	0.00
1941-1945	0.96	0.38	0.07	0.14
1946-1950	1.07	0.47	0.06	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.12	0.06	0.06
Sheerness U.D.				
1926-1930	1.12	0.80	0.28	0.04
1931-1935	0.83	0.61	0.24	0.12
1936-1940	0.65	0.43	0.18	0.05
1941-1945	0.55	0.49	0.09	0.04
1946-1950	0.93	0.41	0.10	0.00
1951-1955	0.69	0.19	0.06	0.05
Sheppey R.D.				
1926-1930	1.37	0.66	0.44	0.11
1931-1935	0.88	0.75	0.36	0.09
1936-1940	0.29	0.31	0.12	0.02
1941-1945	0.61	0.42	0.19	0.05
1946-1950	0.94	0.32	0.20	0.07
1951-1955	0.97	0.21	0.17	0.02
Isle of Sheppey				
1926-1930	1.22	0.80	0.31	0.05
1931-1935	0.88	0.65	0.26	0.10
1936-1940	0.54	0.40	0.15	0.03
1941-1945	0.62	0.51	0.12	0.06
1946-1950	0.95	0.39	0.13	0.02
1951-1955	0.78	0.19	0.10	0.04

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEYS

Mass Radiography Surveys were carried out at both Queenborough and Sheerness and members of the general public and school children from the whole Island were enabled to attend for X-ray. The following statistics relate to mass radiography findings at both stations.

(a) General Public:

Males	1,742
Females	2,951
Total	4,693

Active tuberculosis was discovered in 9 persons and 71 other cases had inactive tuberculosis.

(b) Schools:

	Children	Staff
Males	415	34
Females	355	71
Total	770	105

No active tuberculosis was discovered but 2 pupils had inactive tuberculosis.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the medical inspection of school children on the Island during 1955 -

(a) Number of inspections:

(i) Periodic:

Entrants...	...	...	...	367
Second age group	366
Third age group.	304
Others	501

(ii) Special inspections	220
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(iii) Re-inspections	844
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(b) Number found to require treatment:

Entrants...	5
Second age group	31
Third age group.	35
Other periodic inspections				23

(c) Return of defects found by medical inspection:

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS No. of Defects		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS No. of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
in	-	11	-	-
es(a)Vision	77	81	43	-
(b)Squint	9	28	7	-
(c)Other	-	16	5	1
rs(a)Hearing	-	30	3	1
(b)Otitis Media	-	16	1	2
(c)Other	1	3	-	-
se or Throat	1	52	1	1
ech	-	12	3	-
rvical Glands	-	60	-	3
rt and Circulation	-	3	3	2
gs	-	26	1	-
velopment(a)Hernia	-	3	1	-
(b)Other	1	8	1	1
hopaedic:				
(a)Posture	3	13	-	1
(b)Flat Foot	2	16	-	-
(c)Other	1	34	1	1
vous system:				
(a)Epilepsy	-	2	-	-
(b)Other	-	9	-	-
chological:				
(a)Development	3	8	2	-
(b)Stability	-	6	13	4
er	-	24	6	6
Totals	98	461	91	23

(d) Classification of general health of pupils inspected during the year.

Age Groups	Number of pupils inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col.2	No.	% of Col.2	No.	% of Col.2
Entrants ..	367	207	56.4(50.9)	154	42.0(46.1)	6	1.6(3.0)
Second ...	366	213	58.2(39.0)	148	40.4(57.5)	5	1.4(3.5)
Third. ...	304	125	41.1(52.3)	175	57.6(47.0)	4	1.3(0.7)
Others ...	501	238	47.5(53.9)	257	51.3(44.5)	6	1.2(1.6)
Totals ..	1538	783	50.9(49.8)	734	47.7(48.0)	21	1.4(2.2)

(e) Dental Inspections and Treatment:

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's
Dental Officers:

(i) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	928
(ii) Specials	...	...	...	...	163
Number found to require treatment.	...	...	...	...	521
Number actually treated.	...	...	...	...	308

(f) Infestation with Vermin:

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons..	...	...	...	9399
(ii) Number of pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	90
(iii) Number in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	92

QUEENBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

1955

Mayor:

Alderman Mrs. E. S. Weekes, J.P.

Deputy-Mayor:

Alderman E. G. Dines

Aldermen:

Mrs. M. Dobner E. Thompson

Councillors:

W. J. Booth
S. J. W. Byrne
F. E. Cackett
D. Cunningham
H. G. Harris
S. Houldershaw
G. H. Lerpiniere
R. D. Sharrock
T. G. Thomas
D. H. Thomsett
A. F. Wilby
*Miss D. L. Wood

*Chairman of Health Committee

Town Clerk:

F. Marshall

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

W. F. Dodds

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Queenborough Town Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Queenborough during the year 1955.

The differences in the Birth and Death Rates for 1954 and 1955 were small but favourable. The Crude Birth Rate was 18.3 per 1,000 of the population, slightly higher than the previous year's 17.0. The Corrected Birth Rate, used for comparison with other districts, was 18.9, whilst for England & Wales this Rate was 15.0.

The number of deaths was again very small and the Crude Death Rate was 8.1 as compared with 9.0 in 1954. The Corrected Rate of 8.3 was considerably lower than the Rate of 11.7 for the whole country.

Infant Mortality in England & Wales again reached a new low record, the rate being 24.9 per 1,000 related live births, and I am happy to report that no deaths of infants under one year of age occurred in the Borough.

The incidence of infectious diseases during the year was very low except for an outbreak of Measles which totalled 106 cases. Fortunately all of the cases were of a mild character.

A survey of sub-standard properties in the Borough was made during the year and after considering a joint report of the Sanitary Inspector and myself, the Council submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government a 5-year programme of slum clearance comprising 37 houses.

I wish to record with thanks the excellent work carried out by Mr. Dodds, the Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA IN ACRES

Land covered by water..	5)	1,103
Land	1098		

A further 1,272 acres consists of 610 acres of foreshore and 662 acres subject to tidal waters and included in this area is the harbour which is owned by the Council.

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-1955	3,220
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This figure is 10 less than the 1954 estimate.
The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 34 in 1955.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	...	995
4. RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	£21,019
5. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	£86

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	30 (35)	25 (17)	55 (52)
Illegitimate	3 (-)	1 (3)	4 (3)
Totals	33 (35)	26 (20)	59 (55)

(b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	18.3	(17.0)
Corrected rate	18.9	(17.5)
Rate for England & Wales	15.0	(15.2)

(c) Still Births Nil (2)

2. DEATHS

(a) A total of 26 deaths were registered, of which 15 were males and 11 females.

Crude rate per 1,000 population	8.1	(9.0)
Corrected rate	8.3	(9.3)
Rate for England & Wales	11.7	(11.3)

(b) Table I shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. Heart disease and associated conditions account for 15 of the 26 deaths, respiratory diseases for 3 and various forms of cancer for another 3.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1954)

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
2. Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
4. Diphtheria	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
5. Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	2 (1)	- (-)	2 (1)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .	- (3)	1 (1)	1 (4)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
16. Diabetes	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	- (-)	- (6)	- (6)
18. Coronary disease, angina	4 (2)	3 (1)	7 (3)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1 (1)	- (-)	1 (1)
20. Other heart disease	1 (5)	5 (1)	6 (6)
21. Other circulatory disease	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
22. Influenza	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
23. Pneumonia	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
24. Bronchitis	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
31. Congenital malformations	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2 (3)	- (-)	2 (3)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
34. All other accidents	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
35. Suicide..	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
36. Homicide and operations of war	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
All causes	15(19)	11(10)	26(29)

(c) The following table shows the age groups in which deaths occurred:-

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	3	1
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	2

The average age at death was 69.5 (66.6 in 1954), being 64.1 (63.9) for the males and 76.9 (71.6) for the females. The oldest male was 90 and the oldest female 93 years.

3. INFANT MORTALITY

It is very gratifying to record that no infant deaths occurred during 1955. As I stated in my last Report, this rate in particular is liable to extreme fluctuations in a small district, but the average over the past 10 years, 32.3, does now show a downward trend. In 1955 the Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales was 24.9, a new low record.

SECTION III

19

INFECTION AND OTHER DISEASES
THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

110 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, Measles accounting for 106 of these. This epidemic was not unexpected as there had been very few cases in the Borough since 1952.

Single cases of Scarlet Fever, Pneumonia, Erysipelas and Whooping Cough occurred, the last-named being a welcome reduction from the high figure of 51 the previous year. The case of Scarlet Fever was only the second to occur in the past five years.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred although a small outbreak affected the rest of the Island in the autumn.

Tables III and IV give details of the infectious diseases notified during the year.

TABLE III

Disease	At all ages	Age groups								
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	106	16	21	65	3	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	110	-	17	21	66	3	-	1	2	-

TABLE IV

Disease	Total	Total (1954)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1954)
Scarlet Fever	1	(1)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	1	(51)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles.	106	(2)	51	55	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)...	1	(-)	1	-	-	1	(1)
Erysipelas	1	(-)	-	1	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Non-Para...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective...	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-infectious	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria.	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	110	(55)	52	58	-	1	(1)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year; this was a man aged 66 years. For the third successive year no deaths were attributed to this disease.

No new cases of the non-pulmonary form of this disease were notified and no deaths occurred.

Table V gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

TABLE V
SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1955 ..	17	14	3	-	34
New notifications	1	-	-	-	1
Transfers from other districts .	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths during year	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1955	18	14	3	-	35

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VI

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1955	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1955	Total number Immunised at end of 1955
1955	3	-	3
1954	21	-	28
1953	1	-	46
1952	1	-	43
1951	1	-	42
1950	-	4	45
1949	-	4	42
1948	-	1	55
1947	-	-	51
1946	-	1	31
1945	-	-	44
1944	-	-	51
1943	-	-	32
1942	-	-	55
1941	-	-	42
Totals	27	10	610

A large proportion of children born in 1955 would not be of age for immunisation but the 5-year period from 1950 to 1954 shows approximately 83% of children immunised.

4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE VII

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1	14 (16)	- (-)
1 to 4	8 (11)	- (-)
5 to 14	- (2)	- (1)
15 and over .	5 (8)	2 (4)
Totals ...	27 (37)	2 (5)

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The supply of water from the two deep wells at Rushenden has continued to be adequate. Twelve samples of untreated water and 24 of treated water were taken for bacteriological examination and all were very satisfactory.

(b) The total consumption of water during the year was 86,758,000 gallons, of which 10,458,000 were used for trade purposes and 26,300,000 for domestic purposes. This is a total daily average of 31.2 gallons per head of the population and a domestic consumption of 22.3 gallons.

. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No additions or improvements were made to the sewerage system.

Sewage flows by gravitation to two main outfalls in South Street and the Chalk Wharf. It is stored at these points and released with the ebb tide.

The only houses in the Borough not on main drainage are at Pier Cottages, about half a mile from the town, where 18 houses are served by 3 cesspools.

. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site near Pier Cottages. Applications of a tip dressing to prevent flies breeding are made monthly and rodents are controlled by quarterly baiting.

SCHOOLS SANITATION

The general sanitary arrangements at the Schools are satisfactory.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two public conveniences, both for males only, situated in South Street and Railway Terrace. The provision of conveniences for both sexes is to be considered in 1956.

6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Two rooms were disinfected after infectious disease.

(b) No disinfestations were required during the year.

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

Spraying of ditches for the suppression of mosquito breeding was continued at regular intervals. No serious complaints of nuisance were received.

8. RODENT CONTROL

Fifteen complaints of rats and 14 of mice were received and all but one were dealt with by the local authority.

The Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works employ their own operator and regular treatment is carried out.

The Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries did not require test baiting of the sewers as the previous test had shown no infestations.

9. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

10. INSPECTIONS, NUISANCES AND DEFECTS

Appendix A gives details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector, while Appendix B shows details of nuisances and defects remedied or abated.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following figures show building progress during 1955 and since the end of the war:-

	During 1955	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Completed	12	172
Under construction	12	-
Private enterprise:		
Completed	1	7
Under construction	1	-

The 12 houses completed during the year were all of 3-bedroomed non-parlour type. The following is an analysis of the 252 houses owned by the Council:-

	Pre-war	Post-war	Total
Bungalows	8	6	14
Non-parlour 2-bedroomed	-	40	40
Non-parlour 3-bedroomed	63	36	99
Parlour 2-bedroomed	-	6	6
Parlour 3-bedroomed	9	84	93

At the end of the year there were still 149 applicants on the Council's waiting list. The following are details:-

Queenborough residents in rooms	45
in flats or houses	39
Residents outside Queenborough in rooms	35
in flats or houses .	30

2. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below:-

A. Clearance Areas

Number of unfit houses demolished	...	...	...	...	4
Number of persons displaced.	...	...	...	...	14

B. Houses not included in Clearance Areas

Housing Act 1936:

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| (ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force | ... | ... | ... | - |
| (iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) | ... | ... | ... | - |

Housing Act 1949:

Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	-
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953:

Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	-
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

C. Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts.. 12

Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice

Housing Act 1936 - formal notice - Sections 9, 10, 11, 16

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 -

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and demolition orders revoked
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Slum Clearance

The Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954 required the Council to submit proposals for a 5-year slum clearance plan and it was estimated that approximately 37 houses would fall in this category 35 to be dealt with as Clearance Areas and 2 as individual unfit houses.

SECTION VI

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

1. MILK

There are no producers in the district but ten distributors retail the following designations -

Pasteurised	...	...	...	3
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	2
Sterilised ..	...	...	...	7

2. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the Borough. Five premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and all retail pre-packed well-known makes. There is also one itinerant vendor who visits the district regularly during the summer.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Regular inspections of food shops and factory canteens are made. The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered -

Pork	...	...	...	15 lb
Corned Beef	.	...	...	85½ lb
Ox Liver	...	...	...	67 lb
Tinned meat	.	...	...	14 oz
Tinned cherries	..	...	...	12½ lb

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and forwarded to the Sheppey Glue Works for processing, whilst tinned and other foods are buried on the Council's tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) The following are premises registered under the Food Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice Cream, storage and sale	5	24
Sausages, manufacture	3	15
Dairy	1	4

(b) 124 inspections were made of 34 other food premises, an analysis of which by type of business appears below:-

Butchery	...	...	...	...	4
Grocery	...	...	...	...	4
General stores	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocery.	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmonger ..	...	...	...	...	1
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	2
Baker and confectioner.	...	...	...	...	2
Cafe	...	...	...	...	2
Club	...	...	...	...	2
Public house.	...	...	...	...	6

5. FISH FRYING

There is only one fish frying establishment and this is always well kept.

6. BAKEHOUSES

There is one bakehouse in the Borough and this has always operated satisfactorily.

7. FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, I am able to give below the details of samples taken in the Borough during the year:-

Aspirin Tablets...	...	...	...	...	1
Beef Sausage Meat.	...	...	...	...	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	..	...	...	...	1
Brandy..	...	...	...	...	1
Brawn ..	...	...	...	...	1
Chocolate Cake Mix	...	...	...	...	1
Epsom Salts..	...	...	...	...	1
Faggot .	...	...	...	...	1
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipecacuanha.	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk ...	...	...	...	...	13
Milk Ice Lollie ..	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Sausage.	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Sausage Meat.	...	...	...	...	2
Thick Pea Soup ...	...	...	...	...	1
Veal, Ham and Egg Pie .	...	...	...	...	1
Whisky ..	...	...	...	...	1

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Pork Sausage Meat - Fat 20%, lean meat 33%, total meat 53%, cereal filler 22%. Pork sausages contain not less than 65% meat. There is a deficiency of 12% meat below the minimum amount. The deficiency represents 18.5% of the minimum.
 Proceedings taken. Absolute discharge.
 Defendant to pay £1 5s. 0d. costs.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (mechanical power) ...	10	98	-
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	15	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)- Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	-	-

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Number of outworkers Nil

APPENDIX A

Visits and Re-visits During 1955

[illegible]

SHEERNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955

Chairman:

A. F. Standen, J.P., M.B.E.

Vice-Chairman:

R. W. Stone

Councillors:

B. J. Buckwell
W. C. Butterworth
A. G. Coats, J.P.
A. H. Copland
R. J. Davie, J.P., C.C.
E. F. Knight
H. A. Snook
Mrs. E. Tiltman
J. G. Ward
H. L. Wise

Health Committee:

Chairman:

R. W. Stone

Councillors:

A. H. Copland
E. F. Knight
A. F. Standen, J.P., M.B.E.
Mrs. E. Tiltman
J. G. Ward

Clerk to the Council:

J. Griffiths, M.B.E., Solicitor

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

D. E. Jacob, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

G. S. Tovey, M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheerness Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Sheerness for the year 1955.

The Birth Rate fell from 17.4 in 1954 to 16.0 in 1955 and the actual number of babies born was smaller than any other year since the war. The Corrected Birth Rate, used for comparison with other districts, was 17.5, while the corresponding rate for England & Wales was 15.0 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths registered was 173, 13 less than the year before. The Corrected Death Rate was 10.8 as compared with 11.7 for the whole country.

There was a further decrease in the number of infants dying under the age of one year, only 4 as compared with 9 in 1954. Only once previously, in 1949, has this figure been lower. The 4 infant deaths were due to factors over which environmental hygiene has no control and all occurred in the neo-natal period. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births was 15.9 and the 10-year average for this rate is now 29.2 and falling regularly. England & Wales established a new low record for this rate in 1955 with a figure of 24.9 per 1,000 related births.

There were 799 cases of infectious disease notified during the year but the majority of these were mild cases of Measles. More serious was a small outbreak of Poliomyelitis, 8 cases occurring in Sheerness.

The Council's Slum Clearance programme was continued during the year and the Hope Street Compulsory Purchase Order, comprising 51 properties, was made. In accordance with the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a 5-year programme of Slum Clearance was submitted to the Ministry and included 403 houses in Blue Town and Mile Town.

I would like to thank Mr. Jacob, the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the conscientious manner in which he has carried out his duties. His work has been heavier because for three months of the year he was without an Additional Sanitary Inspector. I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their help and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. AREA ... 943 acres

2. POPULATION

As estimated by the Registrar-General
for mid-1955 ... 15,650

This figure is 160 less than the 1954 estimate.

3. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ... 4,756

4. RATEABLE VALUE ... £115,767

5. SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE .. £458

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate...	...	...	134 (131)	101 (127)	235 (258)
Illegitimate...	...	...	6 (7)	10 (10)	16 (17)
Totals	...	...	140 (138)	111 (137)	251 (275)

Illegitimate births were 6.3% of the total births as compared with 6.2% last year.

(b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	...	16.0	(17.4)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population	..	17.5	(19.0)
Rate for England & Wales	.. ...	15.0	(15.2)

(c) Still Births

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate...	...	...	3 (1)	1 (1)	4 (2)
Illegitimate...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

The Still Birth percentage of the total (live and still) birth was 1.6% and this is about average for the district. In just the same way as the Infant Mortality rate has declined, so has the average for this rate been halved during the past 20 years.

2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes in 1955 was 173, 13 less than in 1954. 85 were males and 88 females.

(b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	...	11.1	(11.7)
Corrected rate per 1,000 population	..	10.8	(11.5)
Rate for England & Wales	... ...	11.7	(11.3)

(c) The following table shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

52% of the total were due to heart disease and associated conditions, 27% to various forms of cancer and 6% to diseases of the respiratory system. The death ascribed to 'Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion' was due to a pulmonary embolism following phlebitis and associated with pregnancy.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1954)

TABLE I

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (4)	- (-)	1 (4)
2. Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
4. Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5. Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
6. Meningococcal infections	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
7. Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
8. Measles	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
0. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2 (6)	3 (2)	5 (8)
1. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	13 (5)	- (1)	13 (6)
2. Malignant neoplasm, breast	- (-)	1 (2)	1 (2)
3. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	- (-)	1 (-)	1 (-)
4. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .	14 (14)	13 (11)	27 (25)
5. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
6. Diabetes	1 (-)	- (3)	1 (3)
7. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	13 (11)	17 (13)	30 (24)
8. Coronary disease, angina	10 (15)	10 (5)	20 (20)
9. Hypertension with heart disease	- (2)	3 (1)	3 (3)
0. Other heart disease	13 (15)	22 (12)	35 (27)
1. Other circulatory disease	- (5)	2 (3)	2 (8)
2. Influenza	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
3. Pneumonia	3 (-)	1 (-)	4 (-)
4. Bronchitis	3 (5)	4 (1)	7 (6)
5. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
6. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2 (7)	- (-)	2 (7)
7. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	- (-)	- (2)	- (2)
8. Nephritis and nephrosis	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
9. Hyperplasia of prostate	1 (3)	- (-)	1 (3)
0. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
1. Congenital malformations	1 (2)	- (1)	1 (3)
2. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2 (9)	9 (13)	11 (22)
3. Motor vehicle accidents	2 (1)	- (-)	2 (1)
4. All other accidents	4 (3)	1 (1)	5 (4)
5. Suicide	- (2)	- (-)	- (2)
6. Homicide and operations of war	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
All causes	85(112)	88 (74)	173(186)

(d) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	1	-	-	2	1	3	8	17	25	23	5
Females	3	1	-	-	1	1	7	14	23	27	11

The average age at death was 67.0 (63.7 in 1954), being 65.8 (63.5) for the males and 68.1 (64.0) for the females. The oldest male was 96 and the oldest female 94 years.

3. INFANT MORTALITY

Only 4 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during 1955 and the Infant Mortality Rate of 15.9 per 1,000 live births has only been bettered once before. That was in 1949 when the rate was 11.3. The rate for England & Wales was the lowest ever recorded, viz., 24.9.

The following table gives particulars of the 4 deaths.

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Broncho Pneumonia due to congenital heart disease	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity (birth weight 1 lb 12 oz)	F	19 hrs	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity (birth weight 1 lb 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz)	F	29 hrs	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity One of twins	F	2 days	Hospital	Hospital

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. 799 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. 759 of these were Measles, almost all of a very mild type. This disease had not been epidemic since 1951 and therefore it was not surprising that the number notified exceeded any previously recorded, 518 cases in 1949 being the previous highest.

20 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, the majority of them being notified during the last two months of the year. Whooping Cough was almost entirely absent, only 2 cases being notified as compared with the high figure of 107 the year before.

By far the most important outbreak during the year was that of Poliomyelitis. Fortunately this did not start until the end of September when the general incidence of this disease was on the wane. All of the 8 cases were children and 3 of them were the paralytic type.

Details of the cases of infectious disease notified are given in the following tables.

TABLE IV

Disease	At all ages	Age groups								
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	20	-	3	5	11	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	759	20	123	149	453	11	3	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ...	10	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	4	-
Poliomyelitis - Para .	3	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Non-Para	5	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
Totals ..	799	21	128	158	470	13	4	1	4	-

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1954)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1954)
Scarlet Fever	20	(6)	15	5	1	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	2	(107)	2	-	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	759	(3)	401	358	-	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal).	10	(4)	7	3	-	4	(-)
Erysipelas	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para.	3	(-)	1	2	3	-	(-)
Non-Para.. ..	5	(-)	3	2	5	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective.. ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-infectious	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery... ..	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	799	(125)	429	370	9	4	(-)

2. TUBERCULOSIS

16 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and this was higher than the average of recent years. In contrast, only 1 death occurred (a male who had not been notified previously and this is the first time the number of deaths has been so low, the average of recent years being 5.

The following tables give details of new cases and deaths and also a summary of the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years ..	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 years ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years ..	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 years ..	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 years ..	*1	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-
65 and over ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ..	8	9	-	-	1	-	-	-

*Not notified before death

TABLE VII

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1955 ..	71	52	9	18	150
New notifications	7	9	-	-	16
Transfers from other districts .	2	1	1	1	5
Not notified before death	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths during year	1	-	-	-	1
Removed from district.	1	2	-	-	3
Recovered..	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1955	78	60	10	19	167

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VIII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1955	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1955	Total number Immunised at end of 1955
1955	8	-	8
1954	147	-	179
1953	11	-	193
1952	3	1	210
1951	2	9	214
1950	1	63	272
1949	-	12	263
1948	-	1	201
1947	-	-	165
1946	-	1	131
1945	-	1	122
1944	2	2	124
1943	-	1	122
1942	-	-	110
1941	-	-	109
Totals	174	91	2423

A large proportion of children born in 1955 would not be of age for immunisation but the 5-year period from 1950 to 1954 shows approximately 81% of children immunised.

4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE IX

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ...	87 (109)	- (-)
1 to 4 ...	63 (59)	1 (3)
5 to 14 ...	10 (6)	11 (3)
15 and over .	28 (35)	15 (20)
Totals .	188 (209)	27 (26)

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The water supply is derived from two boreholes, one at Sheerness East and the other at Trinity Road, whilst an augmenting supply is purchased from the Sheppey Water Company. All the water is chlorinated before distribution. As in previous years, it was not possible to maintain a 24-hour supply throughout the whole of the year.

Total consumption amounted to 161,813,780 gallons, a daily consumption of 28.3 gallons per head.

Pumped from Trinity Road	80,001,770 gallons
Pumped from Sheerness East :	63,232,010 gallons
Purchased from Sheppey Water Company .	18,580,000 gallons

Approximately 97% of the houses in the town are supplied by mains direct, the remaining 3% being supplied by standpipe.

(b) 40 samples were taken from the Trinity Road supply for bacteriological examination. Of 14 samples of raw water, 3 showed faecal contamination, whilst of 26 samples of chlorinated water from the Trinity Road storage tank and domestic taps, 2 showed slight but not serious contamination.

33 samples were also taken from the Sheerness East supply 11 of them being raw waters, all satisfactory. Of the other 22 samples taken from the reservoir and domestic taps, only one showed very slight contamination.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage is collected at two main pumping stations. The canal station deals with sewage from the Marine Town area, the newer parts of Mile Town and the new housing estates. The sewage from these areas collects in a tide lock storage tank at West Minster, whence it flows out to sea by gravity at low tide or is pumped out at high tide.

Sewage from Blue Town and the older part of Mile Town is collected at the West Minster pumping station and this is also pumped out to sea. Four subsidiary lifting stations are used throughout the town and the sewage is screened either at one of the lifting stations or at the main pumping station, but is not otherwise treated.

The two new 12" storm water pumps for the reconstructed West Minster outfall station were not delivered during the year but are expected early in 1956. Removal of broken and damaged portions of the outfall sewer was undertaken prior to its renewal. Arrangements were also made for the scraping and de-scaling of the trunk sewer from Clyde Street to Alma Road and the High Street. With the completion of these works it is hoped that the flooding in parts of Marine Town after heavy rain will no longer occur. The Clyde Street area was flooded during June after an exceptionally heavy rainstorm.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Tipping of refuse continued in the watercourse known as Barton's Point to Queenborough Lines at a point close to West Minster. It had been hoped that tipping on this site would cease before housing development took place nearby, but the site was not closed until December when arrangements were made with Sheppey R.D.C. for the use of their tip at Scrapsgate.

Considerable trouble was experienced with outbreaks of fires on the tip and the difficulty of obtaining sufficient covering material resulted in nuisances from flies. Despite the regular use of insecticides, these presented a serious problem during August and September. There were only very slight infestations of rats and these were promptly dealt with by poisoning with warfarin.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools are on main drainage with efficient flushing apparatus. During the Poliomyelitis outbreak the school authorities cooperated by arranging for the chlorination of closet seats and urinals on the advice of the Health Department.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council's proposals to proceed with the Sea Bathing Station and conveniences at Marine Parade have had to be deferred owing to the restrictions on capital expenditure for projects not considered essential at the present time. These restrictions are also likely to delay new public conveniences and public shelter accommodation to be sited opposite the Railway Station, plans for which have been considered and approved by the Council. In view of the unsatisfactory condition of the conveniences in Royal Road, it is hoped that consent to proceed with alternative proposals will be obtained. A site has been obtained at the rear of the Rio cinema.

6. PUBLIC BATHS

(a) Slipper Baths - Facilities for both sexes exist at the Wood Street Baths (3 male and 3 female). These were used by an average of 59 men and 23 women weekly during the year.

(b) Open Air Swimming Pool - This pool is open from Whitsuntide to September approximately. It is estimated that 56,000 persons used the pool during 1955 compared with 34,000 the year before and that the greatest number on one day was about 800. The sea water in the pool is purified by continuous filtration and chlorination and six samples taken for bacteriological examination showed excellent results.

7. LETHAL CHAMBER FOR CATS AND DOGS

The lethal chambers supplied by the R.S.P.C.A. and maintained by the Council for the destruction of sick and aged animals were used for 161 cats and 107 dogs during 1955, 16 animals more than in 1954. 11 of the dogs were strays brought in by the Police. This service provides an essential need and prevents risk of serious nuisance which might otherwise occur.

8. CAMPING SITES

There are three licensed sites for summer visitors situated at -

Cheyney Rock - 25 caravans
Seabreeze Camp, Cheyney Rock - 33 caravans
Ravelin Battery - 82 caravans

These camps have mains water supply and drainage connected to the Council's sewers and adequate closet and washing facilities. Refuse collections are made weekly by the Council. All the camps have been satisfactorily maintained and conducted.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) The boiler to the steam disinfecter was renewed during the year. 11 premises were disinfected after cases of infectious disease.

(b) The following are details of premises disinfested:-

	Council houses		Other houses	
	No.	Rooms	No.	Rooms
Cockroaches	30	-	17	-
Fleas	3	6	22	65
Bugs	1	1	13	29
Ants	3	-	4	-

There was a slight increase in the number of pre-war houses troubled with cockroaches.

10. MOSQUITO CONTROL

As stated in previous reports the piping of watercourses and ditches in close proximity to houses is the most satisfactory method of dealing with this problem and it is to be hoped that this will be continued on the new housing site at West Minster. Ditches are regularly treated with Malariol to kill the larvae but mosquitoes have given rise to complaints and there is no doubt that any collections of water in tanks and rainwater tubs provide breeding grounds and they should be adequately covered with close fitting lids. Repellent creams and lotions are useful in giving individual protection against this troublesome biting insect.

11. RODENT CONTROL

(a) Surface infestations -

Number of properties inspected after complaint	152
Number found to be infested by rats	24
Number found to be infested by mice	93

The number of infestations by rats was similar to last year but the number due to mice was considerably greater. Domestic premises are treated by the Council without charge but business premises are dealt with on payment.

(b) Sewers - There are approximately 370 manholes in the Council's sewerage system and systematic test baiting at different points revealed only slight infestation necessitating the laying of poison baits at 8 manholes.

12. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

13. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The steps taken by the Oil Refinery appear to have reduced the malodorous vapours which caused so many complaints in 1954 although it may be that there were fewer occasions when weather conditions favoured their detection.

H.M. Inspector of Alkali etc. Works has also watched this problem closely and although complete elimination of vapour from the plant is almost impracticable, it is hoped that the ultimate effect of action being taken by the Company will result in such a reduction of the objectionable content of the vapour that no nuisance will be caused.

14. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

The removal from their homes of old people who are in need of care and attention is only undertaken as a last resort and after all other possible alternatives have been considered. During 1955 one order for the removal of an old lady of 90 was obtained from a Justice after consultation with the Chairman of the Health Committee.

Although in the majority of instances where Orders are necessary, the persons concerned are at first loth to go, it is a fact that in an amazingly short time they are extremely happy and contented in their new surroundings.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1955 and the total since the war:-

	During 1955	Total built since the war
Council houses:		
Temporary, completed	-	46
Permanent, completed	89	624
Permanent, under construction ..	36	
Private enterprise:		
Permanent, completed	1	29
Permanent, under construction ..	2	

2. At the end of the year there were 265 housing applicants on the waiting list. 86 of these were in rooms and 179 occupied houses. Of those in houses, 45 are included in the slum clearance programme.

The year has seen an increasing amount of slum clearance rehousing and fewer applicants selected from the ordinary waiting list. This is a trend which is inevitable in carrying out the clearance programme and the redevelopment of derelict areas.

3. SLUM CLEARANCE

During the year the slum clearance programme required under the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, was made and approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

The need to resume slum clearance after the war was recognised by the Council in 1951 when a 10-year programme was made. By 1954 the first three years of this programme had been completed, and the outstanding portion was included in the proposals sent to the Ministry.

The programme included 403 unfit houses situated in Blue Town and the older parts of Mile Town and the Council intend dealing with these in the next five years. The 403 houses included 46 houses in operative Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders and sub-standard houses purchased by agreement, and a further 51 houses in a Clearance Area which with adjoining lands and property were made the Hope Street No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1955, awaiting confirmation at the end of the year.

In order to make sites available for further development, Clearance Areas are being made in that portion of Mile Town where land is planned for housing purposes on redevelopment. Whilst this is a logical procedure, where instances of acute deterioration occur, some houses have to be dealt with by Closing or Demolition Orders.

4. The following houses were actually demolished during 1955:-

Clearance Areas - 75, 77, 79, 81, 87 and 89 Rose Street.

Individual Unfits - 32 Spring Garden Passage
67, 93, 95, 108, 110, 112 Hope Street
30 East Lane
17, 19, 21, 23, 25 Broad Street
23 and 34 King Street
21 and 23 Cross Street
1 and 3 Chapel Street
6 West Passage

5. Demolition Orders were made on the following properties:-

32 Spring Garden Passage
67 and 93 Hope Street
23 and 25 East Lane

Closing Orders under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made on the following:-

179 Invicta Road
10 Bethel Passage
5 Spring Garden Passage
19 Bell Alley

In addition to the above, 20 Russell Street and 111 High Street were voluntarily closed by owners.

6. The Hope Street No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1955, which was awaiting confirmation at the end of the year, included the following properties:-

Nos. 65, 69/71, 73, 77, 83, 83A, 85, 85A, 87, 87A, 89, 89A, 91, 91A, 95A, 97, 99, 101 and 103 Hope Street, Nos. 37, 39, 41, 45 and 47 Bell Alley, Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7 South Street, Nos. 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 74A, 76, 76A, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102 and 104 Russell Street (No. 66 Russell Street is a shop with domestic accommodation).

Disused Chapel (63 Hope Street), now a Marine Store Dealer's depot, a former Mineral Water factory, now a Wholesale Merchant's stores (Nos. 73 and 75 Hope Street) and disused stables, cart and other sheds (Nos. 79 and 81 Hope Street).

7. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing is summarised below:-

		Number of Persons Houses Displaced	
A.	<u>Clearance Areas</u>		
	Number of unfit houses demolished	6	18
	Number of unfit houses not yet demolished but from which families displaced	18	64
B.	<u>Houses not included in Clearance Areas</u>		
	Housing Act, 1936 -		
	(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	20	39
	(ii) Families displaced but houses not yet demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	2	11
	(iii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	-	-
	(iv) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	-	-
	Housing Act, 1949 -		
	Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	-	-
	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 -		
	Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	6	27
C.	<u>Repairs in the period</u>		
	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts		162
	Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:		
	Houses remedied by owners		12
	Housing Act, 1936 - formal notice - Sections 9,10,11,16:		
	Houses made fit by owners		-
	Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 -		
	Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		-
D.	<u>Purchase of Houses by agreement</u>		
	Houses in Clearance Areas, other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year		6

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. FOOD BYELAWS, etc.

There have been increasing signs of awareness that food hygiene is 'good business' and several premises have made improvements, the most notable being the increase in refrigeration and cold storage display cabinets.

2. MILK SUPPLY

There are no producers in the area but there is one pasteurising plant in operation. There are 29 registered retailers of the following designations:-

Pasteurised	...	...	...	5
T.T. (Pasteurised)	..	...		2
Sterilised	...	...	...	28

Twenty-three samples of Pasteurised milk were taken during the year. All were satisfactory with the exception of one which failed the phosphatase test and this proved satisfactory on resampling.

The two main supplies can be regarded as satisfactory, the plant in both dairies being carefully operated and well maintained.

A considerable amount of sterilised milk is sold from small retail grocers and general provision shops and 22 samples taken from the two sources of supply all passed the turbidity test.

3. ICE CREAM

Premises registered for manufacture	...	...	2
Premises registered for sale and storage	...	...	29

Pre-packed ice cream continues to form the bulk of supplies. Eight samples taken for bacteriological standards showed satisfactory results, six being Grade I and two Grade II.

4. INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Whilst the use of vehicles satisfactorily equipped for the transport of meat has continued, the cleanliness and regular use of protective clothing was not always satisfactory and it was necessary during the year to require a haulage contractor to provide cleaner headwear and overalls.

(b) Condemned butchers' meat is collected by the Sheppey Glue & Chemical Works after treatment with naphthalene green. Other food, if suitable, is added to the Council's kitchen waste collection and the remainder is incinerated or buried at an adequate depth on the refuse tip.

The following are details of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Beef	...	...	...	...	12 lbs
Pork	...	...	...	...	18 lbs
Other meat	...	...	...	...	15 lbs
					104 tins
Sausages	...	...	...	...	119 lbs
Tongue	...	...	...	...	8 lbs
Bacon and ham	...	...	...	...	271 lbs
					2 tins
Veal	...	...	...	...	8 lbs
Corned beef	...	...	...	...	40 lbs
Luncheon meat	...	...	...	...	22 lbs
					15 tins
Frozen rabbit	...	...	...	...	150 lbs
Fish, fresh	...	...	...	...	11 stones
smoked	...	...	...	...	6 stones
					15 tins
Shrimps	...	...	...	...	56 lbs
Cockles	...	...	...	...	20 lbs
Milk	...	...	...	...	29 tins
Butter	...	...	...	...	13 lbs
Cheese	...	...	...	...	111 lbs
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	121 tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	156 tins
Pears (a total consignment)	...	...	...	...	1600 lbs
Cereals	...	...	...	...	7 lbs
					17 pkts
Cake and confectionery	...	...	...	...	102 lbs
Preserves	...	...	...	...	14 jars
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	16 tins etc.

5. FOOD PREMISES

(a) There has been an increase in the installation of refrigeration in food shops. The remaining open-fronted wet fish shop has arranged for the fitting of a shop front and several shops aware that good hygiene is an asset to business have made various improvements to equipment and fittings. The new regulations which will operate from next year will make more specific requirements to ensure cleanly practices and provide further safeguard against the risk of food poisoning.

(b) Forty-four inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:-

	Premises Inspections	
Ice Cream, manufacture and sale	31	23
Preserved foods, manufacture and sale	21	16
Dairy	1	5

(c) Other food premises, by type of business, are shown below:-

Hotels, cafes, restaurants	24
Groceries, general provisions	78
Butchers	13
Fish, wet	8
Fish, fried	9
Sweets, manufacture	1
Meat pies, manufacture	1
Greengrocery	21
Ships' chandlers	1
Confectionery and sweets	20
Bakeries	3

193 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

6. FISH FRYING

There are nine fish frying premises and all have operated satisfactorily.

7. SHELLFISH

Shellfish sold by shops in the district are obtained from supplies outside the area, the former local trade carried on by a few families having ceased.

8. BAKEHOUSES

The odd occurrence of extraneous matter in bread and confectionery caused by strands of hessian from sacks and grease from bakehouse machinery was received and emphasizes the care needed with increased mechanisation of processes to exclude such risks. The matters were investigated and staffs interviewed in an attempt to prevent further incidents.

9. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am able to give details of samples taken under this Act in the Sheerness Urban District by courtesy of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the Kent County Council:-

Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	...	...	...	1
Borax B.P.	...	...	...	1
Cake Mix	...	...	...	1
Camphorated Oil B.P.	...	...	...	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	...	1
Creamy Milk Chocolate Cream Egg	...	...	...	1
Currants	...	...	...	1
Dried Mixed Sweet Herbs	...	...	...	1
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	1
Glucose D	...	...	...	1
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	2
Joy Sticks	...	...	...	1
Margarine (10% Butter)	...	...	...	2
Marzipan	...	...	...	1
"Marzine" Cyclizine Hydrochloride -				
Travel Sickness Tablets	...	...	...	1
Meat Paste - Chicken	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	38
Milk Chocolates	...	...	...	1
Mincemeat	...	...	...	1
Piccalilli	...	...	...	1
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	1
Pure Dairy Cream	...	...	...	2
Raisins	...	...	...	1
Rum	...	...	...	2
Sardines in Peanut Oil	...	...	...	1
Sauce	...	...	...	1
Soup Mix	...	...	...	1
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce with Cheese	...	...	...	1
Steak and Kidney Pies	...	...	...	1
Sultanas	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	1
Tincture Benz. Simp., B.P.	...	...	...	1
Tomato Ketchup	...	...	...	1
Travel Sickness Tablets	...	...	...	1
Unsweetened Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	1
Whisky	...	...	...	1
White Pepper	...	...	...	1

All of the samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce with Cheese -

Fat 0.35%. Tomato solids 0.07%. Amount of cheese insufficient to give article any flavour of cheese. Amount of tomato also low.

Manufacturers agreed to raise cheese content.

Canadian Ice Cream -

Fat 9.1%. Total solids 35.55%. Sucrose 12.3%. Non-fatty milk solids 13.3%. Starch present.

Not Canadian Ice Cream.

Use of description 'Canadian' discontinued.

Currants -

Sample contaminated with larvae (15 per pound). Stocks withdrawn and destroyed.

Milk Chocolates -

Fat 29.3% including butter fat 1.25%. Milk Solids not fat 8.0%.

Deficient in butter fat. Makers notified.

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power)	6	3	1
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)	47	23	1
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	1
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	1
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-

3. Outwork

There are three outworkers in the district, two making wearing apparel and one making Christmas crackers. No action was necessary under Sections 110 and 111.

Visits and Re-visits during 1955

[illegible]

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1955

Defective sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	16
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Drainage cleansed	...	...	...	...	41
Drainage reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Waste pipes, repaired, renewed or trapped	...	...	...	...	5
Water supplies, defects remedied	...	...	...	...	5
Rain water pipes and eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	50
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	59
Wall plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	26
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	23
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Windows and ventilation repaired and improved	...	...	...	...	14
Woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	25
Fireplaces and stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	20
Accumulations of refuse abated	...	...	...	...	9
Keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	24

SHEPPEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955

Chairman:

Miss E.M. Mills, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman:

Lt.Col. G.A. Keir

Councillors:

H.E. Alltimes
H.A. Auty
R.N. Bigg
G.K. Dawkins
A.P. Dummott
Mrs. H. Faulkner
G. Ingleton
W/Cmr. W.E. James
H.C. Love
G.T. Parris
F.H. Purvis
W.W. White

Health Committee:

Chairman:

Lt.Col. G.A. Keir

Councillors:

H. A. Auty
A. P. Dummott
Mrs. H. Faulkner
H. C. Love
Miss E.M. Mills, J.P. C.C.
W. W. White

Clerk of the Council:

S. B. Clarke (to September, 1955)
M. W. Claye (from October, 1955)

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

E. F. Brading, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

T. E. Davies

Public Health Department,
Trinity Road,
Sheerness.

To the Sheppey Rural District Council

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Sheppey Rural District during 1955.

The Crude Birth Rate fell in 1955 to 13.4 per 1,000 of the population and this is very nearly the lowest on record. The Corrected Rate however, which is used for comparison with other districts, was 15.3 and was slightly higher than the rate of 15.0 for England & Wales. The percentage of illegitimate births was very much lower than of recent years.

The Crude Death Rate was 10.9 which is just about the average for the district over the past ten years. The Corrected Rate was 9.8, while for England & Wales it was 11.7

There were four deaths of infants under one year of age and the Infant Mortality Rate was therefore higher than last year, 31.7 per 1,000 live births, but a study of the average of this rate over 10-year periods shows a satisfactory decline. This rate establishes a new record each year for the whole country and for 1955 the low figure of 24.9 was reached.

There was a big epidemic of Measles in 1955 and there were 50% more cases than had occurred in any year since 1940 when notification of the disease was introduced. Fortunately the majority were very mild cases. The gravest occurrence however, was the outbreak of Poliomyelitis on the Island. Although only four cases occurred in the Rural District, it is sad to record that one of the children died after several months of treatment in an iron lung. On the happier side, once again there was no Diphtheria and neither was there any outbreak of Food Poisoning.

I wish to record with thanks the excellent work carried out by Mr. Brading, the Surveyor, Engineer & Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Davies the Additional Sanitary Inspector, and also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. Area 20,319 acres
2. Population as estimated for mid-1955 by
the Registrar-General 9,380

This figure is 80 higher than the previous year.
The natural increase in population, that is the excess
of births over deaths, was 24.

3. Number of inhabited houses 3,342
4. Rateable value £58,539
5. Sum represented by penny rate £230

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	67 (67)	55 (56)	122 (123)
Illegitimate	2 (3)	2 (7)	4 (10)
Total	69 (70)	57 (63)	126 (133)

The total number of births was 7 less than in 1954 and 3.2% were illegitimate, the lowest percentage since 1939.

(b) Birth Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	13.4 (14.3)
Corrected rate	15.3 (16.3)
Rate for England & Wales	15.0 (15.2)

(c) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	- (4)	2 (1)	2 (5)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Still births were 1.6% of the total live and still births as compared with 3.2% last year.

2. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths during 1955 was 102 of which 64 were males and 38 females. This total was 4 less than in 1954.

(b) Death Rate

Crude rate per 1,000 population	10.9 (11.4)
Corrected rate	9.8 (10.3)
Rate for England & Wales	11.7 (11.3)

(c) Table I shows the number of deaths as allocated to the area by the Registrar-General and classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. Of the 102 deaths, various forms of cancer were responsible for 27, and 47 were due to heart disease and associated conditions.

(Figures in brackets relate to 1954)

TABLE I

Cause	Males		Females		Total	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	(1)	1	(-)	4	(1)
Tuberculosis, other	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Syphilitic disease	2	(-)	-	(-)	2	(-)
Diphtheria	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Meningococcal infections	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Acute poliomyelitis	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Measles... ..	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	(3)	3	(2)	8	(5)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	(6)	1	(1)	6	(7)
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	(-)	2	(-)	2	(-)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .	7	(3)	4	(6)	11	(9)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Diabetes	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	(4)	6	(7)	11	(11)
Coronary disease, angina	11	(10)	4	(4)	15	(14)
Hypertension with heart disease	2	(1)	3	(1)	5	(2)
Other heart disease	8	(15)	6	(15)	14	(30)
Other circulatory disease	2	(2)	-	(-)	2	(2)
Influenza	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Pneumonia	1	(4)	1	(3)	2	(7)
Bronchitis	3	(3)	1	(-)	4	(3)
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	(2)	-	(-)	1	(2)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	(-)	1	(-)	2	(-)
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	(3)	-	(-)	2	(3)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
Congenital malformations	2	(-)	-	(-)	2	(-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	(4)	3	(2)	5	(6)
Motor vehicle accidents	1	(-)	-	(-)	1	(-)
All other accidents	1	(3)	1	(-)	2	(3)
Suicide... ..	-	(1)	1	(-)	1	(1)
Homicide and operations of war	-	(-)	-	(-)	-	(-)
All causes	64	(65)	38	(41)	102	(106)

(d) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE II

	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 years and over
Males	3	-	-	1	1	1	2	14	25	11	6
Females	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	12	13	4

The average age at death was 66.6 years (63.7 in 1954), being 64.7 for the males (63.5) and 69.9 for the females (64.0). The oldest male was 89 and the oldest female 91 years.

3. INFANT MORTALITY

There were four infant deaths during the year, giving a rate of 31.7 per 1,000 live births. Whilst this figure is higher than the exceptionally low rate for 1954, viz., 15.0, the average for this rate taken over 10-year periods shows a definite decrease. The corresponding rate for England & Wales of 24.9 was the lowest ever recorded.

Details of the deaths are given in the following table:-

TABLE III

Cause	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Prematurity (birth weight 2 lb 10 oz)	M	2 days	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital heart disease Broncho Pneumonia	M	2 months	Hospital	Hospital
Multiple deformities Prematurity	M	6 days	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity - 28 weeks (birth weight 2 lb 2 oz)	F	1 day	Hospital	Hospital

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. A total of 485 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year. 460 of these were Measles, the biggest number recorded since notification was introduced in 1940. A high incidence of this disease is expected every alternate year and as the epidemic of 1953 was below normal, a fairly high figure was expected in 1955. 2% of the cases were under 1 year of age and 33% were between 1 and 5 years.

Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough notifications were both below average and Diphtheria was entirely absent for the seventh successive year.

Four cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in October when the incidence of this disease throughout the country had reached its zenith and was declining. All were the paralytic type and 3 were children. One of the children, a girl of 8 died 14 weeks after her admission to hospital.

The following tables show details of the cases notified.

TABLE IV

Diseases	At all ages	Age groups								
		Under 1 year	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	6	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	460	10	68	87	274	16	2	3	1	1
Pneumonia	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis - Paralytic.	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	1	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
	485	12	68	91	278	16	7	7	3	3

TABLE V

Disease	Total	Total (1954)	Males	Females	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths (1954)
Scarlet Fever	2	(5)	1	1	1	-	(-)
Whooping Cough	6	(115)	3	3	-	-	(-)
Diphtheria... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Measles	460	(6)	257	203	4	-	(-)
Acute Pneumonia (primary or influenzal)... ..	7	(10)	3	4	-	2	(7)
Erysipelas	-	(5)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Meningococcal Infection	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Poliomyelitis - Para	4	(-)	1	3	4	*1	(-)
Non-Para	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Acute Encephalitis - Infective	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Post-infectious	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Dysentery... ..	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	(2)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	(13)	-	6	6	-	(-)
Smallpox	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Typhoid	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Malaria	-	(-)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Food Poisoning	-	(14)	-	-	-	-	(-)
Totals	485	(171)	265	220	15	3	(7)

*Died in 1956

2. TUBERCULOSIS

67

Nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, but as another case died before notification, for statistical purposes this figure is taken as 10. The average number of new cases during the past 10 years has been 8.6. Four deaths were registered and this figure is also above average.

No new cases and no deaths of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported.

Table VI gives particulars of new cases and deaths and Table VII shows a summary of the Tuberculosis register.

TABLE VI

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 years ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 years ..	*3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 to 55 years ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 years ..	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals ..	6	3	-	-	3	1	-	-

* 1 not notified before death

TABLE VII

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register, 1st January 1955 ..	43	39	14	11	107
New notifications	6	3	-	-	9
Transfers from other districts .	3	4	-	-	7
Not notified before death	1	-	-	-	1
Deaths during year	3	1	-	-	4
Deaths of cases on Register but not due to Tuberculosis ..	-	-	-	-	-
Removed from district	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December 1955	49	45	14	11	119

3. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

69

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures relating to the state of immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age.

TABLE VIII

Year of Birth	Primary Immunisation in 1955	Reinforcing Inoculation in 1955	Total number Immunised at end of 1955
1955	1	-	1
1954	48	-	63
1953	8	-	105
1952	2	1	102
1951	1	2	126
1950	3	33	100
1949	-	12	135
1948	-	2	118
1947	-	3	102
1946	-	2	101
1945	-	1	108
1944	8	2	89
1943	-	-	91
1942	-	-	64
1941	-	1	75
Totals	71	59	1380

A large proportion of children born in 1955 would not be of age for immunisation but the 5-year period from 1950 to 1954 shows approximately 73% of children immunised.

4. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

I am also indebted to the County Medical Officer for the particulars of persons vaccinated against Smallpox during the year contained in the following table:-

TABLE IX

Age group	Primary	Re-Vaccinations
Under 1 ...	40 (47)	- (-)
1 to 4	37 (31)	- (-)
5 to 14	2 (2)	5 (3)
15 and over ..	6 (11)	13 (14)
Totals ...	85 (91)	18 (17)

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The area is supplied from three bores belonging to the Sheppey Water Company and one belonging to the Rural District Council. The Council also have a second bore at Leysdown as a standby and this was operated during the summer months to augment the supply in the Leysdown and Warden areas. Sheppey General Hospital at Minster and H.M. Prison at Eastchurch both have their own supplies.

During the year the following quantities were pumped -

Sheppey R.D.C:

Warden Springs Pumping Station	11,896,500 gallons
Leysdown Pumping Station	2,384,000 gallons

Sheppey Water Company:

Wallend Waterworks	54,519,000 gallons
Eastchurch Pumping Station	31,019,000 gallons
Minster Pumping Station	25,191,000 gallons

Of this total of 110,729,000 gallons pumped by the Sheppey Water Company, 18,000,000 gallons were supplied to the Sheerness Urban District Council.

(b) Forty-six samples were taken from the Sheppey Water Company's supply and although 9 of the 46 showed slight contamination, at one time suggesting inadequate chlorination, in the main the results were very satisfactory and no samples showed faecal coli.

Twenty-four samples were also taken from the Warden and Leysdown Supply, 8 of raw water and 16 after chlorination. Three of the untreated samples showed slight contamination and 1 showed the presence of faecal coli. Four of the 16 samples of treated water showed slight but not serious contamination.

The supervision of wells supplying farms and cottages in outlying districts continued, and of 9 samples of untreated water 5 were seriously polluted.

(c) The number of houses supplied, with the source and method of distribution was as follows:-

	From public supplies		Private or communal wells	
	Tap in house	Standpipe	No. of wells	No. of houses
Minster	2531	-	-	-
Eastchurch...	425	25	1	1
Warden	135	-	-	-
Leysdown	230	-	2	*70
Harty	-	-	5	15
Elmley	1	-	-	-

*These are mainly bungalows and chalets at Shellness Hamlet used as summer residences only and also beach chalets along Shellness beach.

In addition, all camping sites are supplied with water from public mains.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) The following statement shows in summary form the method of sewage disposal throughout the district:-

Parish	Number of properties, including camps		
	Main drainage	Cesspools	Pail closets
Minster	2490	40	85
Eastchurch ...	195	186	157
Leysdown	106	123	71
Warden	-	131	19
Elmley & Harty	-	24	10

(b) Sewage from the Minster area is collected either at the Scrapsgate or Sheerness East Disposal Works and the effluent is discharged into a ditch which goes directly into the sea.

The premises in the parish of Eastchurch are fairly equally divided between those on main drainage, cesspools and pail closets. The sewage from main drainage is dealt with at the Eastchurch Disposal Works and is ultimately piped to Windmill Creek.

For Warden and Leysdown, main drainage is available for only about one-fifth of the premises and these are all in Leysdown. It is expected that work in connection with the Leysdown main drainage scheme will begin in 1956.

3. DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land adjacent to the Scrapsgate Disposal Works. The tip is systematically treated for the suppression of rats and flies.

4. SCHOOLS SANITATION

All schools in the area are on main drainage and general sanitary conditions have been found satisfactory.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for both sexes exist at Halfway, Scrapsgate, Minster, Eastchurch and Leysdown. Washing facilities are also available in the conveniences at Leysdown and Scrapsgate.

6. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(a) Three premises were disinfected after infectious disease

(b) The following disinfestations were carried out during the year:-

	Council houses	Other houses
Bed bugs	-	3
Fleas	3	10
Earwigs	-	1
Bats	-	1

7. MOSQUITO CONTROL

The usual practice of spraying cowsheds and pigsties with D.D.T. in early spring, and accumulations of water and ditches near houses with Malariol during the spring and summer was again carried out. No serious nuisances were reported.

8. RODENT CONTROL

One full-time operator is employed and the following are details of surface infestations found and treated during the year:

Number of infestations by rats	280
Number of infestations by mice	13
Number of infestations treated by operator .	293
Number of farm surveys	174
Number of farms treated	51
Number of survey visits	1434
Number of treatment visits	1575

A test-baiting of the sewers at the request of the Divisional Rodent Officer showed no infestations.

9. CAMPING SITES

The following are details of the camping sites in the area:-

	Sites Dwellings	
Occupied sites and dwellings	34	2124
Approved sites not yet developed	8	350
Camps with mains water supplies	34	2124
Camps connected to main drainage	8	845
Camps with own disposal works	1	120
Camps served by cesspools	20	906
Camps served by pail closets	5	253

The situation with regard to the camps is similar to last year. Twenty camps are served by cesspools and 5 camps by pail closets.

The only efficient water carriage system for camp sites of this nature in my opinion is provision of main drainage, with many trapped gullies interspersed between the chalets leading to properly constructed sewage disposal works.

With the completion of the Leysdown main drainage scheme, adequate facilities will be available for the majority of these camps.

10. MORTUARY

A nominal fee is paid annually to the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee for the use of mortuary facilities at the Sheppey General Hospital.

1. INSPECTIONS, NUISANCES ABATED

Details of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector are shown in Appendix A and details of nuisances and defects remedied or abated in Appendix B.

SECTION V

HOUSING

1. The following are details of the number of houses built during 1955 and the total since the war:-

	Minster	Leysdown	Warden	Eastchurch	Total
Council houses -					
Completed in 1955 ...	16	1	-	8	25
Completed since the war:					
Permanent	268	14	-	34	316
Temporary	26	-	-	6	32
Under construction ..	21	-	-	2	23
Private enterprise -					
Completed in 1955 ...	20	1	1	2	24
Completed since the war	178	7	3	8	196
Under construction ..	33	10	1	1	45

2. The number of applicants on the Council's waiting list at the end of the year was 219, 74 of these living in rooms and 145 in houses or flats.

3. Action taken by the Health Department in respect of housing during the year is summarised below -

	Number of Persons Houses Displaced	
A. <u>Clearance Areas</u>		
Number of unfit houses demolished	9	17
B. <u>Houses not included in Clearance Areas</u>		
Housing Act 1936 -		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	10	22
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	1	7
(iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	-	-
Housing Act, 1949 -		
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	-	-
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 -		
Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	-	-

Repairs in the period

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action made by the Local Authority under Housing or Public Health Acts... 26

Public Health Acts - Action after formal notice:

Houses remedied by owners -

Houses remedied by Local Authority in default of owners -

Housing Act, 1936 - formal notice - Sections 9,10,11,16:

Houses made fit by owners 1

Houses made fit by Local Authority in default of owners -

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 -

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and

Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) -

Details of the 20 houses which were demolished or closed during the year are as follows -

Nos. 71, 73 and 75 High Street, Eastchurch

2, 4 and 6 High Street, Eastchurch

Billet Cottages, shop and premises, Warden Road (3 premises)

Nos.1 and 2 Primrose Cottages, Eastchurch

Nos.1 and 3 Station Road, Eastchurch

Glencairn, Glendale Road, Minster

School Cottage, High Street, Eastchurch

Rosemead, Warden Road

Capel Hill Cottages (2)

The Rest, Shurland Avenue, Minster

The Ark, Warden Bay

SLUM CLEARANCE

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required the submission to the Minister of the amount of Slum Clearance which the Council considered necessary during the next five years. It was estimated that it would be necessary to secure the demolition of 75 properties during that period.

The following paragraphs are extracts from the report on Slum Clearance which was submitted to the Council by the Chief Executive Officer -

Proposed slum clearance scheme

The main factor to be considered when dealing with future slum clearance schemes is the Council's capability of rehousing the displaced persons. For the purposes of this report it is assumed that the Council would be prepared to rehouse displaced persons from demolished properties whether action is taken under Section 11 or 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Having regard to the number of Council houses built during the last ten years, it is assumed that the average yearly output of completed Council houses will be thirty. It is therefore recommended that fifteen Council houses per year be earmarked for rehousing persons from demolished houses. In a five year program seventy-five houses could be dealt with, which, coupled with the informal demolitions which occur from time to time, would eliminate the majority of unfit houses in the area.

Because of the scattered nature of houses in the Rural area, it is obvious that action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 will be used to a greater extent than the procedure under Section 25 of the same Act. Unless there are any special reasons, e.g., compulsory purchase, it is suggested that Section 11 be used in preference to Section 25 as this procedure is not so cumbersome.

Conclusion

It will be seen that the Council can deal with their slum clearance problem within a five year programme, provided that no unforeseen emergencies arise. Having dealt with the problem of unfit houses, it is considered essential that steps should be taken to ensure that the problem does not occur again. It is therefore suggested that, in addition to the clearance of unfit houses, active steps should be taken to improve the considerable number of houses, which although not structurally bad, are badly planned and lack the amenities which are normally associated with good housing standards. A full report dealing with this type of property could be submitted at a later date.

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK SUPPLY

There are 7 distributors of milk in the district retailing the following designations:-

Pasteurised..	...	...	2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	2
Sterilised ..	...	...	5

Six samples of Pasteurised and three of Sterilised milk were taken during the year and all passed the prescribed laboratory tests.

2. ICE CREAM

Forty-eight premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream, an increase of 4 over the previous year. One manufacturer is also registered.

3. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were found unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered:-

Tinned tomatoes...	...	...	2 lb	3 oz
Tinned corned beef	...	...	18 lb	12 oz
Tinned herrings ..	...	...		14 oz
Tinned baked beans	...	...		8 oz
Tinned fruit	...	...	1 lb	13 oz
Tinned luncheon meat	..	...	1 lb	10 oz
Tinned milk..	...	...		12 oz
Pork sausages	...	...	144 lb	
Cooked ham ..	...	...	17 lb	7 oz
Beef ...	...	...	90 lb	
Fish ...	...	...	29 stone	

Condemned meat is stained with naphthalene green and disposed of on the Scrapsgate refuse tip.

4. FOOD PREMISES

(a) Forty-eight inspections were made of the following food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938, or the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949:-

	Premises	Inspections
Ice cream, manufacture and sale..	49	28
Preserved foods, manufacture and sale	1	10
Dairies	1	10

(b) Other food premises by type of business are shown below:-

	Number
Butchers	8
Fishmongers	8
Cafes and restaurants	20
Confectionery	4
Tea rooms	3
General stores, including greengrocery	48

139 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

5. FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are 5 fish frying establishments and all are kept satisfactorily. Two mobile vans also operate during the summer.

6. SHELLFISH

There is no commercial collection of shellfish from the foreshore.

7. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council for the following details of samples taken in the area during the year:-

Apple and Strawberry Jam	1
Beef Sausage Meat	1
Bitter Beer..	1
Blackcurrant and Honey.	1
Butter Brazils	1
Cream of Chicken Soup	1
Dressed Crab.	2
Extra Strong Seidlitz, B.P.C.	1
Ground White Pepper	1
Ice Cream	2
Jack Frost Selection containing glucose	1
Methyl Salicylate Ointment, B.P.C.	1
Milk	11
Mincemeat	1
Navy Brazils - Buttered Brazil Nut Crunch	2
Pork Sausage.	1
Pork Sausage Meat.	1
Ruskit..	1
Seville Orange Marmalade (F.F.S.)	1
Stewed Steak.	1
Toffee Apple.	2
Whisky..	2

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Beef Sausage Meat - Preservative not declared.
Caution issued.

Apple and Strawberry Jam - On average composition of fruit, the content of this jam is apple 40%, strawberry 8% (strawberry should be at least 10%).
Manufacturer informed. Further samples to be obtained.

Stewed Steak - Meat 75% (should be 90%).
Manufacturers warned. Assurance given that meat content will be increased. Further sample to be obtained.

Dressed Crab - Contains at least 21% excess) Proceedings taken.
cereal.) Fines £4
Dressed Crab - Contains at least 16% excess) Costs £2 2s. Od.
cereal.)

SECTION VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities (no mechanical power) ...	4	8	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (mechanical power)... ..	15	20	-
Other premises in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	4	4	-

2. Cases in which defects were found ... Nil

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers	Action under Sections 110 &
Making of wearing apparel...	1	-
Making of artificial flowers	1	-

APPENDIX B

Nuisances and Defects Remedied in 1955

[illegible]